

\$5.00 for an examination? Impossible! Perhaps some bad risks are taken, as a result of cheap and careless examinations, but who cares? It's only a little of the policy holders' money that is paid out; and at any rate, that \$10,000.00 has been saved.

The next annual session of the State Society, to be held in San Francisco, April 17 to 19, 1906, will mark the beginning of the second fifty years of its existence.

THE MEETING NEXT YEAR. The committee on program has been at work for some time, and has about decided to arrange for the whole week, providing clinics and hospital work for the days not devoted to the official meetings of the Society—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Dr. Edward Jackson, of Denver, President of the Rocky Mountain and Inter-State Medical Association, suggested a meeting of that Association with our Society at the time of our meeting, to the end that the matter of forming a Pacific Coast branch of the A. M. A. might be discussed and possibly organized. This matter was presented to the Council at its meeting of September 30th, and was approved. The Council indicated Friday, April 20th, as the day for this special session, and instructed the secretary to have the program printed as a part of the regular program of our own meeting. Thus it would appear from the present condition of things, that the third week in April, 1906, will be a memorable one to our members in many ways. The attendance will undoubtedly be large, and the program offered is expected to be very rich in excellent clinical material and carefully arranged symposia.

That highly upright, virtuous proper, honest and enlightened daily publication, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, seems to have undertaken to establish a semi-scientific medical department.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE. In its issue for October 6th, it stated, editorially—and erroneously—that the medical profession of this state endeavored to secure the passage of a bill "to compel persons afflicted with the commonest ailments to procure a prescription, and of course to pay the doctor for prescribing." Referring to "proprietary medicines," it says: "Utterly disregarding the fact that a large number of proprietary medicines [the *Chronicle* undoubtedly means nostrums advertised and sold direct to the laity, for certainly the philanthropic *Chronicle* would not devote its valuable space to a question of purely medical interest and one which did not affect its pocket] are prepared according to formulas which they could not improve upon if they tried, and fully aware that these remedies for the minor and less complicated ills would prove fully as efficacious as any they could prescribe, they persistently seek to proscribe the sale of all patent medicines. Of course the pretense is that the sole object is to guard the

public against the use of pernicious drugs." Now, why does the *Chronicle* make such a bitter and uncalled-for arraignment of the medical profession? Might it possibly be explained if, in the business office of the *Chronicle*, there are a number of contracts bearing this phrase: "It is mutually agreed that this contract is void, if any law is enacted by your State restricting or prohibiting the manufacture or sale of proprietary medicines"?*

The general tone of exalted self-esteem with which the editor of the *Medical Record* disdainfully remarks, that its advertising pages are never referred to in the editorial pages, is almost killingly funny. It reminds one strongly of the highly edifying ostrich who buries his head in the sand to avoid the disagreeable incident of being found. But the *Record* has been found out, and its policy of silent contempt will hardly answer. It has disclosed its perfect willingness to take your money for subscription, and then to permit its advertisers to ridicule your national organization in its advertising pages—which are editorially ignored. Of course they are ignored; if the gentlemen in the editorial department did not ignore them, it would be disastrous to editorial dignity. The correspondence between the editor of the *Journal A. M. A.* and the editor of the *Medical Record* is published on another page, and is well worth your attention.

In its issue for October 7th, *Collier's Weekly* began the series of articles by Mr. Adams, revealing the inside rottenness of the nostrum fraud, not only as affecting the general public, but also as it concerns the nostrums exploited to and through the medical profession. These articles should be read by every physician who takes the slightest interest in his profession or in professional decency. It is almost impossible to quote from them without distinct loss, and we have not space to reprint them entirely, though we should be delighted to do so. Mr. Adams shows how the unspeakable nostrum makers practically own and control the newspapers of the country, and through them the state legislatures, and then refers to similar bondage of medical publications. He says: "One might expect from the medical press freedom from such influences. The control is as complete, though exercised by a class of nostrums somewhat differently exploited, but essentially the same. * * * 'Syrup of Figs,' for instance, which makes widespread pretense in the dailies to be an extract of the fig, advertises in the medical journals for what it is, a preparation of senna. Antikamnia * * * for a long time exploited itself to the profession by a campaign of ridiculous extravagance, and is to-day by the extent of its reckless use on the part of ignorant laymen a public menace. * * * There are to-day very few medical publications which do not

*This is the clause referred to as the "Magic Red Clause," by Mr. Samuel Hopkins Adams in *Collier's*, October 7, 1905.

carry advertisements conceived in the same spirit and making much the same exhaustive claims as the ordinary quack 'ads' of the daily press, and still fewer that are free from promises to 'cure' diseases which are incurable by any medicine.* Thus the medical press is as strongly enmeshed by the 'ethical' druggers as the lay press is by Paine, 'Dr.' Kilmer, Lydia Pinkham, Dr. Hartman, 'Hall' of the 'red clause' and the rest of the edifying band of life-savers, leaving no agency to refute the megaphone exploitation of the frauds."

In this article Mr. Adams mentions a few of the rank nostrums which, through the medium of the dirty dollars they pay to medical journals for the purpose of aiding in defrauding the medical profession and the sick by means of advertisements, reading notices and paid-for "original" articles, have been prominent in debauching the profession and enmeshing the medical press in this tight-drawn net of fraud. "Ponds extract," "antikamnia" and "fig syrup" are specifically mentioned. A casual glance through a few of the medical journals at hand discloses the fact that one or more of these nostrums may be found in the advertising pages of the following "enmeshed" journals: *American Journal of Progressive Therapeutics* (truly "progressive"!); *American Medicine* ("founded, owned and controlled by the medical profession of America"?); *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*; *Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery*; *Chicago Medical Times*; *Cleveland Medical Journal*; *Clinical Review*; *Colorado Medical Journal*; *Eclectic Medical Journal*; *Kansas City Medical Record*; *Louisville Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery*; *Lancet-Clinic*; *Maryland Medical Journal* (official organ of the state medical organization); *Medical Bulletin*; *Medical Counselor*; *Medical News*; *Medical Record* (too dignified to pay any attention to its advertising pages, and willing to permit its advertisers to insult the medical profession and the American Medical Association); *Medical Times*; *Medicine*; *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* (official organ of the state medical organization); *New York Medical Journal* (its publishers invited the nostrum makers to express their indignation at the formation of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. in the pages of this journal); *New York Medizinische Monatschrift*; *Pacific Medical Journal*; *Physician and Surgeon*; *St. Louis Medical Review*; *St. Paul Medical Journal* (owned and published by the Ramsy County Medical Society); *Northwest Medicine*; *Medical Sentinel*; *Brooklyn Medical Journal* (published by the Medical Society of the County of Kings); *Journal of the Kansas Medical Society* (official organ of the State Medical Society); *Wisconsin Medical Journal* (official organ of the State Medical Society); *Annals of Gynecology and Pediatrics*; *American Journal of Surgery*; *Illinois Medical Journal* (official organ of the State Medical Society); *Western Medical Review*

*Among others, the "Butler Positive Treatment," a sure cure for tuberculosis (*Alkaloidal Clinic*), and "Tr. Antidiabetica," a positive specific for Diabetes Mellitus (*Med. Review of Reviews*).

(official organ of the Nebraska State Medical Association); *Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*; *Northwestern Lancet* (official organ of Hennepin County Medical Society); *Medical Review of Reviews*; *American Journal of Obstetrics*; *Albany Medical Annals*; and this is not all of them.

Does it begin to be apparent why the medical press is so exceedingly quiet when the subject of nostrum advertising is mentioned?

Drs. Pothier, Hume, Watson and Couret, of New Orleans, announce, in the *Journal A. M. A.* for September 23d, the finding of some previously unnoted bodies in the blood of yellow fever patients during the first four days of the infection. They do not make the definite claim that these are the micro-organisms causative of the disease, but they intimate the possibility. In view of the well-known filter test of the first yellow fever commission under Dr. Reed, it would seem doubtful that these bodies are, at least in the form noted, the responsible organisms. Still, they possess certain characteristics which will probably be noted in the causative micro-organism of yellow fever, when it shall be definitely recognized. If the transmission of a disease from human host to human host requires and necessitates a period of entertainment and change within an intermediate host, it is obvious that the direct transfer of unmodified infected blood from the primary host to a secondary host will not produce the disease. In all known diseases conveyed by an intermediate host, the responsible organism is thoroughly encapsulated, and the removal of this capsule or investing membrane, with the liberation of the contained organism and its subsequent modification and preparation for a second human host, can only take place within the intermediate host. While it may be freely granted that analogy is comparatively valueless in science, still it seems probable that conditions similar to those known to exist in other tropical diseases conveyed to man by an intermediate host will be found to prevail in the case of yellow fever.

We take great pleasure in publishing elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL some matter from the *Journal A. M. A.* concerning the "proprietary" known as "Pepto-Mangan (Gude)"—but not "good." The garbled and distorted extract from the report of the Porto Rico Commission has been appearing with regularity in the various representatives of the subsidized medical press of this country, and doubtless a number of honest and confiding physicians have been fooled into believing it. What shall we say of a manufacturer whose love for the medical profession is so great that he will sink to this sort of misrepresentation (to use no harsher word)? For years, this "proprietary" has been widely advertised in medical journals—and in drug store windows to the public. For years